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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/816,098	04/01/2004	Michael Bernard Riley	79399-00010	9456

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EXAMINER

CHANG, CHING

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3748

DATE MAILED: 10/28/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/816,098

Applicant(s)

RILEY, MICHAEL BERNARD

Examiner

Ching Chang

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 25-34 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 5-10, 12-15, 17-22 and 24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4, 11, 16 and 23 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 04/01/2004.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Double Patenting

1. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

1(a). *Claims 1-3, and 5-8 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-3, and 4-7 of U.S. Patent 6,736,097, respectively.*

Although the claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the claims of the instant application are substantially the same as that claimed in the US '097 Patent; however, the scope of claims 1-3, and 5-8 in this instant application lacks at least two end members, at least two stationary blocks, and a second direction that is substantially perpendicular to said first direction, and thus is broader than that of the respective claims 1-3, and 4-7 of the US '097 Patent.

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1(b). Claims 1, and 5 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 8, and 10 of U.S. Patent 6,736,097, respectively.

Although the claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the claims of the instant application are substantially the same as that claimed in the US '097 Patent; however, the scope of claims 1-3, and 5-8 in this instant application lacks at least two end members, at least two stationary blocks, a spring biased against said at least one interior member, and a second direction that is substantially perpendicular to said first direction, and thus is broader than that of the respective claims 8 and 10 of the US '097 Patent.

1(c). Claims 9-10, and 12 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 8-10 of U.S. Patent 6,736,097, respectively.

Although the claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the claims of the instant application are substantially the same as that claimed in the US '097 Patent; however, the scope of claims 9-10, and 12 in this instant application lacks at least two end members, at least two stationary blocks, and a second direction that is substantially perpendicular to said first direction, and thus is broader than that of the respective claims 8-10 of the US '097 Patent.

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1(d). Claims 13-15, and 17-19 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 11-13, and 14-16 of U.S. Patent 6,736,097, respectively.

Although the claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the claims of the instant application are substantially the same as that claimed in the US '097 Patent; however, the scope of claims 13-15, and 17-19 in this instant application lacks at least two stationary blocks, and a second direction that is substantially perpendicular to said first direction, and thus is broader than that of the respective claims 11-13, and 14-16 of the US '097 Patent.

1(e). Claims 20-22, and 24 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 17-20 of U.S. Patent 6,736,097, respectively.

Although the claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the claims of the instant application are substantially the same as that claimed in the US '097 Patent; however, the scope of claims 20-22, and 24 in this instant application lacks at least two stationary blocks, and a second direction that is substantially perpendicular to said first direction, and thus is broader than that of the respective claims 17-20 of the US '097 Patent.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 25-34 are allowed.
3. Claims 4, 11, 16, and 23 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

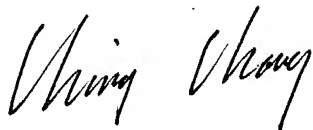
4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.
 - Riley (US Patent 6,736,097).
 - Jesel (US Patent 5,746,167).
 - Morel (US Patent 5,022,358).
5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ching Chang whose telephone number is (703)306-3478. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th, 7:00 AM -5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas Denion can be reached on (703)308-2623. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.


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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Patent Examiner



Ching Chang



THOMAS DENION
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700